

Message Text

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ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EA-11 NEA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 OMB-01 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

INRE-00 USSS-00 DRC-01 /145 W
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P R 212237Z JAN 74

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2393

INFO SECDEF UNN

CSAF UNN

NMCC UNN

USCINCEUR UNN

COMMAC UNN

CINCPAC UNN

JCS UNN

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 199

FROM AMBASSADOR BENNETT

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, UN, XF

SUBJ: UN REQUEST THAT US AIRLIFT KENYAN CONTINGENT
TO COMPLETE UNEF EMPLACEMENT

REF: USUN 5640, 12/14/73

1. AS LAST AIRLIFT OPERATION NEEDED TO GET UNEF IN PLACE,
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UN HAS ASKED THAT US TRANSPORT KENYAN TROOPS AND EQUIPMENT,

COMMENCING ABOUT JANUARY 28. (FRG IS TAKING CARE OF MOVING VEHICLES AS WELL AS TROOPS OF GHANA AND SENEGAL.)

ACTION REQUESTED: I STRONGLY URGE THAT, FOR REASONS GIVEN BELOW, USG AGREE TO THIS REQUEST AS FINAL NON-REIMBURSABLE UNEF AIRLIFT.

2. THERE ARE SEVERAL COMPELLING REASONS WHY US SHOULD UNDERTAKE KENYAN AIRLIFT, EVEN THOUGH COST TO US OF AIRLIFT SERVICES ALREADY PROVIDED IS SUBSTANTIAL.

A. US AIRLIFT OPERATION HAS MADE EXTREMELY FAVORABLE IMPRESSION ON GOVERNMENTS INVOLVED IN UNEF AS WELL AS UN. IT IS VIEWED AS DEMONSTRATION OF US RESPONSIVENESS AND CONCERN FOR SUCCESS OF UN PEACEKEEPING. ALSO, OUTSTANDING EFFICIENCY WHICH HAS CHARACTERIZED USAF CONDUCT OF OPERATION, IN STARK CONTRAST TO ABYSMAL SOV PERFORMANCE, HAS BECOME COMMON KNOWLEDGE. THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT REFUSING UN'S FINAL REQUEST WOULD TAKE EDGE OFF GREAT IMPRESSION MADE SO FAR.

B. AT US REQUEST, US HAS MADE INTENSIVE AND LARGELY SUCCESSFUL EFFORTS TO BRING IN OTHER GOVERNMENTS TO SHARE AIRLIFT BURDEN WITH USG. (FRG TRANSPORT OF TWO AF CONTINGENTS IS LATEST EXAMPLE.) IN ADDITION, AUSTRALIA HAS AGREED MOVE NAPALESSE FROM NEW DELHI FOLLOWING INDIAN LIFT FROM KATHMANDU. LATTER WILL BE PAID FOR BY JAPAN.) UN'S EXHAUSTIVE EFFORTS TO ENLIST AS MANY COUNTRIES AS POSSIBLE IN AIRLIFT OPERATION WOULD SEEM TO WARRANT FAVORBLE CONSIDERATION OF THEIR LAST REQUEST TO USG.

C. AS WE HAVE REPORTED PREVIOUSLY, A MAJOR UN CONCERN HAS BEEN TO KEEP DOOR CLOSED TO CLAIMS FROM GOVERNMENTS, LIKE CANADA AND POLAND, WHICH HAVE PROVIDED AIRLIFT SERVICES AND ARE ATTEMPTING TO CLAIM REIMBURSMET. IF UN IS FORCED TO PAY FOR TRANSPORTATION OF KENYAN CONTINGENT, PRECEDENT WOULD HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED AND THERE WOULD BE NO WAY TO HOLD LINE AGAINST THESE CLAIMS. SHOULD THIS HAPPEN, THESE COSTS WOULD BE ADDED TO OVERALL

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UNEF BUDGET, OF WHICH US PAYS NEARLY 30 PERCENT. US REFUSED TO AIRLIFT KENYANS COULD THUS IN END LEAD TO GREATER COST TO USG.

3. WOULD APPRECIATE PROMPT RESPONSE SO THAT UN CAN HAVE AS MUCH LEAD TIME AS POSSIBLE FOR PLANNING PURPOSES.

BENNETT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY EQUIPMENT, MILITARY PERSONNEL, MILITARY AIRLIFTS, INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING FORCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974USUNN00199
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740126/aaaaayps.tel
Line Count: 114
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: USUN 5640, 12/14/73
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 MAY 2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <26 DEC 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UN REQUEST THAT US AIRLIFT KENYAN CONTINGENT TO COMPLETE UNEF EMPLACEMENT
TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, XF, UNEF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005